

## AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

## LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~treating particulate material to form~~ preparing a solid aggregate matrix material including the steps of useful as a road construction material, the method comprising:

—— ~~providing a urea formaldehyde precondensate;~~

—— ~~providing a polar solvent;~~

—— ~~providing additional urea;~~

~~providing an acid or salt thereof;~~

—— ~~providing a sugar;~~

- ~~mixing [[the]] a polar solvent, additional urea, urea-formaldehyde precondensate, additional urea, a humic acid and/or fulvic acid and/or a salt thereof, sugar and acid to form a binder composition;~~

- ~~mixing the binder composition with the particulate material soil; and~~

- ~~allowing the binder composition to set over a period of time longer than of at least 30 minutes to form a solid aggregate matrix,~~

wherein the acid or salt thereof being selected such as to render the pH of the binder composition is adjusted to a value from 2.0 to 5.3.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the polar solvent is selected from the group consisting of water, alcohol, and mixtures thereof.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~1 or 2~~ 64 wherein the sugar is selected from the group consisting of sucrose, glucose and fructose and mixtures thereof.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~[[5]]1~~ wherein the binding promoter is further comprising mixing in, prior to the step of setting, a complex fatty acid derived from the complete oxidation of vegetable sugars.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~[[5]]1~~ wherein the binding promoter is further comprising mixing in bitumen prior to the step of setting.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 8 wherein the bitumen is in the form of an anionic bitumen emulsion.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~[[5]]1~~ wherein the binding promoter is in the form of further comprising mixing in a surfactant prior to the step of setting.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 10 wherein the surfactant ~~is in the form of~~ comprises sodium dodecyl benzene.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~which includes the further step~~  
~~of further comprising the step of~~ adding any one or more agents selected from the group  
consisting of silicones, silanes, silanols, oils, anti-corrosion agents, ~~ultra-violet~~ ultraviolet light  
blocking agents, biocides, pH buffers, cement, ammonia, ammonium salts, plasticisers, ligna  
sulphates and oxides thereof, phenols and mixtures thereof, prior to the step of setting.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 12 wherein the plasticisers are selected from  
the group consisting of phthalates, hydrocarbons, acetates, latex and glycols.

14. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 12 ~~[[or 13 ]]~~ wherein the ~~ultra~~  
~~violet~~ ultraviolet light blocking agents are selected from the group consisting of organic phenols,  
phosphates and inorganic oxides.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the  
formaldehyde:urea molar ratio in the binder composition is between 1.5 and 2.5:1.

17. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 16 wherein the  
formaldehyde:urea molar ratio in the binder composition is 1.83:1.

18. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~which includes the further step~~  
~~of further comprising the step of~~ compacting the aggregate matrix material after the step of  
mixing and prior to the step of setting ~~into a solid~~.

19. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the acid is a weak  
organic acid.

20. (Original) A method according to claim 19 wherein the weak organic acid is selected from the group consisting of citric acid and acetic acid and mixtures thereof.

21.-39. (Cancelled)

40. (Currently Amended) A ~~settable binder composition for mixing with a particulate material and setting to form a solid~~ aggregate matrix material useful as a road construction material, the solid aggregate matrix material comprised of (i) a binder composition component comprising a mixture of a urea formaldehyde precondensate~~[[:]~~, a polar solvent~~[[:]~~, additional urea~~[[:]~~, a sugar, a humic acid and/or fulvic acid and/or a salt thereof, and an acid or salt thereof, and (ii) a soil component; wherein selected such as to render the pH of the binder composition ~~[[to]]~~has a value from 2.0 to 5.3 ~~[[so]]~~ such that the binder composition sets into a solid over a period of time ~~longer than~~ of at least 30 minutes from being mixed with the ~~particulate material~~ soil component.

41. (Currently Amended) A ~~binder composition~~ The solid aggregate matrix material according to claim 40 wherein the polar solvent is selected from the group consisting of water, alcohol, and mixtures thereof.

42. (Cancelled)

43. (Currently Amended) A ~~binder composition~~ The solid aggregate matrix material according to claim ~~40 or 41-65~~ wherein the sugar is selected from the group consisting of sucrose, glucose, and fructose, and mixtures thereof.

44. (Cancelled)

45. (Currently Amended) ~~A binder composition~~ The solid aggregate matrix material according to claim ~~[[44]]~~40 ~~further comprising wherein the binding promoter is a complex fatty acid derived from the complete oxidation of vegetable sugars.~~

46. (Cancelled)

47. (Currently Amended) ~~A binder composition~~ The solid aggregate matrix material according to claim ~~[[44]]~~40 ~~wherein the binding promoter is~~ further comprising bitumen.

48. (Currently Amended) ~~A binder composition~~ The solid aggregate matrix material according to claim 47 wherein the bitumen is in the form of an anionic bitumen emulsion.

49. (Currently Amended) ~~A binder composition~~ The solid aggregate matrix material according to claim ~~[[44]]~~40 ~~wherein the binding promoter is in the form of further comprising a~~ surfactant.

50. (Currently Amended) ~~A binder composition~~ The solid aggregate matrix material according to claim 49 wherein the surfactant ~~is in the form of~~ comprises sodium dodecyl benzene.

51. (Currently Amended) ~~A binder composition~~ The solid aggregate matrix material according to claim 40 ~~which includes further comprising~~ any one or more agents selected from the group consisting of silicones, silanes, silanoles, oils, anti-corrosion agents, ~~ultra violet~~ ultraviolet light blocking agents, biocides, pH buffers, cement, ammonia, ammonium salts, plasticisers, ligna sulphinates and oxides thereof, ~~and phenols and mixtures thereof.~~

52. (Currently Amended) ~~A binder composition~~ The solid aggregate matrix material according to claim 51 wherein the plasticisers are selected from the group consisting of phthalates, hydrocarbons, acetates, latex and glycols.

53. (Currently Amended) ~~A binder composition~~ The solid aggregate matrix material according to claim 51 ~~or 52~~ wherein the ~~ultra-violet~~ ultraviolet light blocking agents are selected from the group consisting of organic phenols, phosphates and inorganic oxides.

54. (Currently Amended) ~~A binder composition~~ The solid aggregate matrix material according to claim 40 wherein the formaldehyde:urea molar ratio is between 1.5 and 2.5:1.

55. (Currently Amended) ~~A binder composition~~ The solid aggregate matrix material according to claim 54 wherein the formaldehyde:urea molar ratio is 1.83:1.

56. (Currently Amended) ~~A binder composition~~ The solid aggregate matrix material according to claim 40 wherein the acid is a weak organic acid.

57. (Currently Amended) ~~A binder composition~~ The solid aggregate matrix material according to claim 56 wherein the weak organic acid is selected from the group consisting of citric acid and acetic acid and mixtures thereof.

58.-63. (Cancelled)

64. (New) A method according to claim 1 further comprising an additional step of adding a sugar prior to the step of setting.

65. (New) The solid aggregate matrix material of claim 40 further comprising a sugar.

66. (New) An article of construction comprising the aggregate matrix material prepared by the method of claim 1, wherein the article of construction is selected from a road, brick, paving stone, wall, flooring, foundation, slab, block, tile, pond lining, dam, tank, canal, embankment, railway line, tunnel, pylon, pole, pipe, surface coating, landing strip, grouting, sports field, artificial rock, statue, and decorative stone.